



Afternoon Alert - Friday, July 7, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports on the heavy rain in the Kyushu region, saying that the record rainfall has claimed seven lives.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Secretary Mattis says DPRK's capability does not "bring us closer to war"

Fuji TV reported at noon that Secretary of Defense Mattis said that North Korea's capability to launch an ICBM "does not bring us closer to war." Secretary Mattis also reportedly stressed the need to continue diplomatic efforts, including imposing economic sanctions, for the time being. On North Korea's launch of an ICBM, the Secretary reportedly said: "We detected the launch since the ignition. An evolved booster was mounted."

### Russia designates Northern Territories special economic zone

TV-Asahi reported that the Putin administration has decided to designate the Northern Territories a "prioritized development region," a euphemism for a special economic zone, perhaps in a bid to prompt Japan to implement "joint economic activities" on the disputed islands quickly. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said the GOJ is analyzing what the designation means for Japan's contribution to the proposed economic cooperation initiative, stressing that any economic programs will be undertaken in a manner that does not undermine Japan's legal claim to the contested territories.

- [Analysis: Dark clouds over Japan-U.S. "honeymoon"?](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. pressures allies not to attend nuke ban treaty forum](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Abe's envoy to visit Iran in Sept. for talks with Rouhani](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Serious concerns about economic aid to Russia ending up helping North Korea](#) (Sentaku)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe and President Trump](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Presidents Trump and Putin grapple at G20](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan provides \\$11 million for mine clearance in Cambodia](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [Gist of Japan-EU free trade agreement](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: Japan-EU EPA a counterforce to Trump's inward-looking stance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [FOCUS: Japan could gain ground in U.S. trade talks after deal with EU](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan-EU trade pact rebuke to Trump's protectionism](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan business leaders praise EU trade pact but farmers worried](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's JGC joins U.S. groups to build LNG terminal on West Coast](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S. trade deficit with Japan widens 11.3% in May](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toyota opens \\$1 bil. N. America headquarters in Texas](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Wakayama union chief defeats Tokyo rival to take helm of JA Zenchu](#) (The Japan Times)
- [MIC to set up regional IoT public-private network](#) (Mainichi)

## SECURITY

- [SOFA hinders investigation of USS Fitzgerald accident](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Onaga makes unusual proposal to replace public safety commissioner](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't to decide next summer whether successor to F-2 will be made in Japan](#) (Nikkei)

Evening edition)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 5-6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe's Hosoda faction under fire within LDP for Tokyo assembly election debacle](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP's Kishida, Ishiba factions criticize party for Tokyo assembly election fiasco](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP's Ishiba and DP's Maehara deepen ties with eye on post-Abe partnership](#) (Sentaku)
- [Cartoon: The reality of the DP](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Abe requires humility over plans to revise Japan's Constitution](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Steadily proceed with constitutional debate regarding crisis management](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and constitutional amendment](#) (Asahi)

## SCIENCE

### Record rainfall in Kyushu

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" on Thursday evening reported on the record rainfall in the Kyushu region, focusing on the mechanism of heavy rain that the Japan Meteorological Agency could not even forecast. The program reported that the latest analysis found that Asakura City in Fukuoka and Hita City in Oita received the most precipitation, adding that the heavy rain continued to fall in the area for more than 10 hours.

- [Japanese privately-developed rocket to be launched on July 29](#) (Jiji Press)

## SOCIETY

- [Tokyo's new 'JK' ordinance takes aim at schoolgirl exploitation](#) (The Japan Times)
  - [Politicians launch group to promote LGBT-friendly policies](#) (Kyodo News)
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